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‍October 1, 2011

‍Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

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In the book Kite Runner social classes separate the main characters. Amir, who is the narrator of the story, lives in a mansion in Wazir Akbar Khan District, he is the son of Baba. Sadly, Amirs mom is not mentioned much because his mother Sofia died one year after giving birth to him. Amir’s family is known as the Pashtuns and they are in a higher and wealthier social class. The other main character is Hassan, the son of Ali. Hassan and Ali live in a mud hut and are servants to Amir and Baba. The mom, Sanaubar, has a dishonorable reputation, she is a prostitute, Ali’s first cousin, and left her son at a young age. Hassan’s family is known as the Hazaras, which is a lower and poorer social class. Amir’s family and Hassan’s came together because Baba’s father adopted Ali when they were younger. Even though the two main characters, Amir and Hassan are from different social classes they still interact with each other. Pashtuns are stereotyped as higher up in the social class. All children who are Pashtuns go to school to get a valuable education. They are treated with great respect, whereas the Hazaras are not. They were called rude nicknames such as mice eating, flat nosed, and load carrying donkeys. A child named Assef had once said “I’ll tell Daoud Khan to remember that if they had let Hitler finish what he had started, the world would be a better place now” (pg. 40). Assef is one of many that do not like Hazaras. Even one of Amir’s teachers had rude comments towards them. Amir’s grandfather does not agree with the treatments Hazaras receive, but Baba's viewpoint is still unknown. Amir is nice to Hassan when no one else is around. However, Amir teases him when he knows things that Hassan does not. Also, when Amir is with his other friends he will act as if Hassan is just a servant to him and nothing more. Hassan looks out for Amir as if he was a brother to him. He listens to all of Amir’s stories and he continues to help capture kites for Amir. Hassan is more of a dedicated friend than Amir is to him. Readers are left by Hassan getting captured by Assef after the kite fighting competition. Instead of Amir trying to save Hassan, he cowardly runs away and readers are left with concern and worry.

When I analyze this book and look back at this begging part of the book I have concern. When I look at Baba, I am very disappointed. I am upset that he will not show more loving support to his son Amir. He does not care about Amir’s desire to write and I think that is a shame. Baba would rather see Amir go into a more suitable profession that way he can be rich likes his father. Baba does not care for Amir like a son, he neglects him. I also worry that Amir will not grow out of his immature stage of being afraid to stand up for what he believes in. I hope that Amir learns to stand up for his friend, Hassan, regardless of his background. Amir repeatedly feels the need to make fun of Hassan’s stupidity. Amir is immature because he thinks that he needs to be like Assef, who constantly makes fun of the Hazaras. Amir must learn that friendship should be valued and he needs to figure out his morals. Until this happens, Amir could possibly loose the friendship he has with Hassan. I am very aggravated to know that children like Assef can get away with torturing Hazaras. This book continues to allow teachers and children to make rude remarks about Hazaras. If this continues throughout the novel then I have no hope of Amir changing because most of the society seems to have the same outlook.

‍When understanding human nature most characters in this novel respond to people based on their background, social class, and their title such as Pashtuns and Hazaras. Amir has difficulty understanding Hassan because of their different backgrounds. Amir states, “how could I be such an open book to him when half the time I had no idea what was milling around in his head? I was the one who went to school” (page 61). Amir had a difficult time understanding the human nature of Hassan. He could not understand Hassan because of his different way of thinking and different way of living. When understanding human roles and behavior, Amir and Baba are family members that share the same nature, they are both Pashtuns. They do have servants like Ali and Hassan, however, they are not treated as bad as other Pashtuns treat Hazaras. Both Amir and Baba share the same human behavior of not being as disrespectful to their servants. However, Pashtuns like Assef disagree. Assef shares a different human behavior, one that is common for most Pashtuns. Assef tells Hassan, “Afghanistan is the land of Pashtuns. It always has been, always will be. We are the true Afghans, the pure Afghans, not this Flat-Nose here. His people pollute our homeland” (pg. 40). Assef grew up with family members and learned this behavior was acceptable. However, Amir's grandpa disagrees with the rude comments made towards Harazars. He is the start of trying to stop the stereotyping between Pashtuns and Harazars. This is maybe why Amir shows a little more mercy to Hazaras because his grandpa passed the same morals onto each family member. Also, another example of understanding human roles and behavior is the fact that some family members share different roles. Baba is worried that Amir will not want to aspire to be a successful business man like him. Amir is more interested in writing, something Baba could care less about. Hassan starts to take the father role because he cares and provides feedback about Amir’s writings, something Baba would never do. When understanding human ideals, some characters seek perfection within each other. Amir seeks perfection to get the attention from his father. Amir desperately tries to get Baba to notice his talent in story writing. During the story, Amirs first writing piece was very important to him. When Amir tried to present it to Baba, he hardly took any notice and Amir never got the perfection he desired. Another example of understanding human ideals is the way Amir does not seek perfection within his friendship with Hassan. Amir does not like to be seen in public with Hassan because he is his servant. Amir sees their friendship more as an acquaintance. Amir has no desire to perfect their friendship. Sadly, Hassan continues to believe that Amir is a true friend to him. However, when Assef bullied Hassan and Amir, Hassan saved them both with a slingshot. Yet again when faced with Assef, he told Hassan the only way out was to give the kite that he caught after the kite flying competition to him. Of course Hassan protested because it was Amirs. Hassan is an honorable person, and has morals as his human ideals. That is why he continues to stay loyal to Amir, despite the brutal beatings he then got from Assef. As Assef continued to beat Hassan, Amir ran away and did nothing. This is a clear example of how Amir did not want to seek perfection within his friendship. When understanding Amir and his human ideals, one notices that he does not want to be the leader and start harmony and end conflict. He would rather run from his fears.